



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture
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2010 Montana and U.S. Honey Production

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Montana honey producers with five or more colonies during 2010 produced 11.6 million pounds of honey, up 14 percent from 2009, according to USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Montana Field Office. The estimate of honey production includes production by colonies that were in the state for part of the year. There were 157,000 colonies producing honey in 2010, compared with 146,000 colonies in 2009. The honey yield per colony was 74 pounds, up 4 pounds from a year ago. Honey stocks on December 15, 2010 were 2.9 million pounds, down from 3.6 million pounds in 2009.

Montana honey prices increased \$0.09 from 2009 to \$1.55 per pound in 2010, setting a new record high. The 2010 value of honey production was \$18.0 million dollars, up 21 percent from last year due to higher prices and production.

Honey production in the United States during 2010 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 176 million pounds, up 20 percent from 2009. There were 2.68 million colonies producing honey in 2010, up 7 percent from 2009. Yield per colony averaged 65.5 pounds, up 12 percent from the 58.6 pounds in 2009. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced. Therefore, at the United States level yield per colony may be understated, but total production would not be impacted. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 45.3 million pounds on December 15, 2010, up 21 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

Honey prices in the United States increased to a record high \$1.60 per pound during 2010, up 9 percent from \$1.47 per pound in 2009. U.S. and State level prices reflect the portions of honey sold through cooperatives, private channels, and retail. The U.S. honey production was valued at \$282.0 million dollars, up 31 percent from the \$215.7 million dollars last year.

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